1309.43471X00

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Ikuo URATANI et al.

Serial No.: 10/769,784

Filed: February 3, 2004

For: DISK ARRAY APPARATUS, AND METHOD FOR

CONTROLLING THE SAME

Group: 2183

Examiner: Not yet assigned

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.97 & 1.98

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 April 22, 2005

Sir:

In the matter of the above-identified application, Applicants are submitting herewith a copy of a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and copies of the documents listed in the attached form equivalent to Form PTO-1449 for the Examiner's consideration.

This information disclosure statement is being submitted before the mailing date of a first office action on the merits and is accompanied by the following certification specified in 37 CFR §1.97(e)

On information and belief, I hereby certify that items I - L of information contained in this information disclosure statement were first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

It is respectfully requested that this information disclosure statement be considered by the Examiner.

Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Mattingly, Stanger & Malur, Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (referencing attorney docket no. 1309.43471X00) please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C.

Frederick D. Bailey

Registration No. 42,282

FDB/sdb (703) 312-6600

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| Commerce (Nev. 4/32) I atent and Tradymark | | | | 6309.43471X00 | | 10/769,784 | | |
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| STATEMENT BY APPLICANT | | | | ING DATE | GROUP | | | |
| (Use several sheets if necessary) | | | | February 3, 2004 2183 | | | | |
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| EXAMINER: Initial if citation is considered, draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. | | | | | | | | |

(Form PTO-1449 [6-4])